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REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in this case before the calculation of fees and before examination of the subject application.

Claims

Claims 1-25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute, in one or more patent applications, the canceled claims, the claims to non-elected inventions, the claims as originally filed, and any other claims supported by the specification.

New claims 26-59 have been introduced. No new matter is added.

Support

Support for the new claims is either obvious, or is as described in the text below. Particularly, support for the recitation of "five single amino acid substitutions, deletions or additions" may be found, for example, at page 6, lines 16-17. Support for compositions of the isolated polypeptide which include an adjuvant recited in the claims may be found, for example, at page 40, lines 14-15. Support for the stringent hybridization conditions may be found, for example, at page 14, lines 6-10. Support for the recitation of sequence relatedness such as "wherein the first polynucleotide sequence is identical to SEQ ID NOs:1 or 3 minus any terminal stop codon, except that, over the entire length corresponding to SEQ ID NOs:1 or 3 minus any terminal stop codon,  $n_n$  nucleotides are substituted, inserted or deleted, wherein  $n_n$  satisfies the following expression

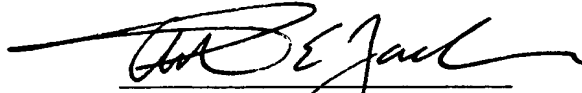
$$n_n \leq x_n - (x_n \cdot y)$$

wherein  $x_n$  is the total number of nucleotides in SEQ ID NOs:1 or 3 minus any terminal stop codon,  $y$  is at least 0.90, and wherein any non-integer product of  $x_n$  and  $y$  is rounded down to the nearest integer before subtracting the product from  $x_n$ " may be found in the specification, for example, at page 43, line 25 through page 44, line 20. Support for the recitation of "wherein the immune response recognizes an antigen having molecular weight 65-70kD (by SDS PAGE) in *Neisseria meningitidis* strains H44/76, M97 250987, BZ10, BZ198, EG328, and ATCC 13090" may be found, for example, in example 3 at page 52 and in Figures 4 and 5.

Closing Remarks

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment prior to calculation of fees and Examination and Allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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